

Kitchen have fed thousands of displaced people and first responders for the Carr, Ranch and River Fires. World Central Kitchen joined forces with Guy Fieri, Operation BBQ Relief, local chefs and residents to provide meals to those affected by the fire. World Central Kitchen, with the assistance of these groups, prepared and served over 2,000 meals per day.

Mr. Speaker, José Andrés has contributed tremendously to help our community that has been affected by the fires in Northern California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY “E”
AWARD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colorado Mesa University for its receipt of the President's “E” Award for 2018. The “E” Award is the nation's highest recognition bestowed on those making significant contributions toward expanding American exports.

Institutions of higher education who have received the award are often represented by larger, internationally well-known universities. With an enrollment of just under 11,000, Colorado Mesa University, located in the relatively small city of Grand Junction, Colorado, has demonstrated its ability to compete with the biggest and best in the nation.

Through its International Student Admissions and Programs office, Colorado Mesa University has steadily increased the number of international students enrolled, representing over 30 different countries. While completing their studies, these students contribute significantly to the local economy, but importantly, they also develop local relationships and an appreciation of the many goods and services offered from our nation's smaller communities and the small businesses that call them home.

When these students return to their home countries and begin their professional careers, those relationships forged during their studies can translate into export opportunities for small businesses in Grand Junction and many other small communities in America, who, despite their rich potential, are all too often overlooked. Colorado Mesa University serves an invaluable role in putting Grand Junction, Colorado on the international map and creating new and exciting opportunities for local businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Colorado Mesa University has shown that rural America and our nation's many wonderful small and mid-size colleges can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their urban and larger counterparts in growing American exports. I am honored to recognize their achievement of the President's “E” Award.

HONORING VELMA DAVIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable commu-

nity servant, Velma Davis. Velma has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and the desire to live a long and fruitful life.

Velma Davis was born in 1903 in the Thornton Community of Holmes County. She received her education at the St. Francis Catholic School and attended the Yazoo High School Number Two. Ms. Davis continued her education with courses from Holmes Community College, Jackson State University and the Tuskegee Alabama Institute.

Ms. Davis entered adulthood during a time of great change in Mississippi. It was the era when most of her daily activities took place in segregated facilities. In 1957, Ms. Davis began working at the Kings Daughters Hospital in Yazoo City where she worked for 13 years. She was one of the first African Americans hired to work at Kings Daughters, and she witnessed the changes that slowly took place as the hospital opened its door to the entire community.

After several years had passed, she went to work at the E & W Plant in Yazoo City, where she was involved in the production of clothing. In 1973, she began working for the Headstart in Yazoo City, when it was a part of the Community Action and Cooperative Program. While working at Headstart for over 36 years, Velma maintained a very active social life while being a mother to five children.

She was involved with the American Legion Post No. 201 Women's Auxiliary and the Yazoo Community Action Program, and during that time she worked part time for 24 years with the Warren Yazoo Mental Health.

Velma's long job history includes working for the Centers for Disease Control in Adult Immunizations, part-time sales clerk for two years at the Black and White Department Store, and a CNA for the Betty Pyles Nursing Register for 5 years at the Care Inn in Yazoo City. Ms. Davis worked on the Community Response Emergency Team for six years, an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor for five years and she worked with the Deep South Organization for four years.

In 2010, Velma retired from Headstart, after three decades of service to the children of Yazoo City. After retirement she got involved with NCBA Program, which trains seniors to do different things so they can be employed. In 2012, she began working at the Yazoo County Human Resources Agency as the activity coordinator where she hosts several activities for seniors such as health screenings, birthday outings and more.

She is an active member of Beulah Land Baptist Church, where she is the vice president of the church choir. Ms. Davis works with MAP Headstart as the Chairperson over the Health Advisory Committee, and holds the office of Treasury of the Yazoo County TRIAD through the District Attorney's Office. She is also a member of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic Leach choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Velma Davis for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

IN HONOR OF JAMES W. MELE FOR
30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. DENHAM, to honor the service of Sheriff James Mele for his 30 years of outstanding leadership in Tuolumne County.

In 1988, he joined the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office as a Jail Deputy Recruit. In just two years he was promoted to Jail Sergeant and then upon graduation from POST Academy in 1990 to Deputy Sheriff. He was a member of the SWAT team and was promoted to Investigator where he was appointed to a drug task force called ACNET. After serving as an Investigator he was promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant he supervised in patrol and then as a Narcotics Sergeant in 2003, and Investigations Sergeant in 2005.

Elected Sheriff in 2006, Jim devotedly served the citizens of Tuolumne County for another 12 years. As Sheriff he founded: the Crisis Negotiation Team, the Public Information and Community Outreach team, and the Rural and Agricultural Crimes Unit. He reinvented the K9 program and initiated the Risk, Vulnerability, Assessment, Strategy for school violence. Jim fought for the Sheriff “J.H” Dambacher Detention Center scheduled to open in 2019.

Jim earned his BA in Criminal Justice Management at the Union Institute & University in 2000; his Executive Master of Leadership from the University of Southern California in 2014; and in 2017 graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Jim was awarded the California Association of Tactical Officers “Darrell F. Gates Memorial Police Executive of the Year.” As Sheriff, he served as a member of the California State Sheriffs Association, The California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System 911 Board, and the California Narcotics Officer Association.

Alongside his service to keeping his community safe, Jim has also led several laudable activities: as a Sonora High School football coach, a youth baseball and soccer coach, a Bishop in his Church, a High Councilman of Girls Camp Liahona, a member of the Civic Advisory Board at Adventist Health and Sonora Rotary, and a Scout Master in the Boy Scouts of America; bolstered by his experience of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff James Mele has an incomparable record of protecting and serving his community. He has set an example of outstanding leadership for us all.

TRIBUTE TO SHERYL AND
LEONARD RICHARDSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sheryl and